



Photographs provided by Associated Press, Worcester Telegram and Gazette and the Worcester Fire Department.

DANGER!

Beware of Abandoned and Vacant Buildings

In 1999, Worcester, Ma., firefighters entered a vacant, burning cold storage building to search for a homeless couple reportedly in the building.

Six firefighters became trapped and died in the fire.

More than 70% of fires in vacant or abandoned buildings are incendiary or suspicious.

IT CAN HAPPEN ANYWHERE

There are more than 12,000 fires in vacant structures reported each year in the United States resulting in \$73 million in direct property damage.

Because children and the homeless may frequent vacant structures, firefighters cannot automatically assume these buildings are empty.

For more information on securing vacant buildings, call the National Arson Prevention Clearinghouse at 1-888-603-3100, visit www.usaf.fema.gov/ or interFIRE at www.interfire.org.

